

Application No. 10/536,678
Amendment dated July 2, 2008
Reply to Office Action of April 2, 2008

Docket No.: 04304/0202957-US0

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, and 5.

Attachment: Three (3) Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 13-15 are amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show “a lower wall portion 12” as described in the Specification. Applicants have attached replacement drawing sheets indicating “a lower wall portion 12” in Figures 1, 2, and 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification

The Specification is objected to for containing numerous errors and awkward language. As indicated above, Applicants have amended the Specification to correct instances of errors and awkward language noted by the Examiner. Additionally, to address any confusion regarding the terms “superiorly” and “inferiorly”, Applicants have amended the specification to include parentheticals to indicate intended meaning of the terms. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 1, 7, and 14 are objected to for having various informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, and 14 to address the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 1, 7, and 14 be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,932,729 to Thompson et al. ("Thompson").

Amended independent claim 1 recites a hinge arrangement comprising a shoe that can be:

selectively manually displaced in a direction of said axis between an inoperative position, in which it is operatively spaced from the floor that supports the cabinet, and an operative position, in which it is seated on the floor in order to transfer to the latter the weight of the front door and to lock the cabinet against the displacements on the floor.

Applicants respectfully submit that Thompson does not suggest or disclose this feature of the presently claimed invention.

Thompson describes a refrigerator door hinge that includes a mounting bracket and a support member. The Examiner asserts that the enlarged support pad 72 is comparable to the shoe of the presently claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. As described in Thompson, the enlarged support pad 72 is attached to the threaded leveling leg 71, and can be adjusted vertically "in the conventional manner." *See* Thompson, col. 6, lines 11-16. The enlarged support pad does not disclose the claimed operative and inoperative positions of the present invention. Furthermore, the enlarged support pad 72 is positioned below the refrigerator cabinet, not the refrigerator door. Thus, the enlarged support pad 72 cannot transfer "the weight of the front door," as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Thompson does not anticipate claim 1, and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4 and 11-15 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Thompson does not anticipate claims 2-4 and 11-15, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-4 and 11-15 be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,215,367 to Montuoro et al. ("Montuoro").

Montuoro describes a refrigerator door hinge. Claims 5-10 depend from claim 1, and Montuoro does not cure the deficiencies of Thompson.

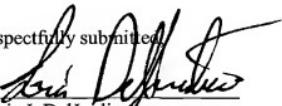
Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

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THREE (3) DRAWING REPLACEMENT SHEETS FOLLOW